Montaña de Oro State Park gets its namesake from the “mountains of gold”—the incredible wildflower blooms that happen there each spring. Hike through flower-covered hills of Mediterranean scrub to stunning coastal vistas, looking out to the famous Morro Rock to the north. Watch for red-tailed hawks soaring overhead, the smooth red bark of a Manzanita bush, or the steady gaze of a black-tailed deer though the eucalyptus grove. Head down to the pebble-covered Spooner’s Cove, a short walk from the campsite, and explore the fascinating world of tide pools. Walk along the coastal cliffs to remote beaches, or relax in the warm sand of the dunes. Together, you and your fellow campers will explore the endless beauty this coastal getaway has to offer, while enjoying hearty camp meals, playing games and activities, and learning about the natural history of the area through seminars given by the Guide Team.
Approximate itinerary*

Day 1
Meet at the Outdoor Adventure Center at 9:00am to depart for your trip. Our drive to Montaña de Oro is, on average 4-5 hours. Bring along your own lunch to eat in the van, or money to purchase a meal at a roadside stop. We will arrive at the campground in the afternoon, where the Guide Team will cook dinner and everyone will help set up tents. We will get to know each other while appreciating the starry sky, and then settle in for some sleep. Get excited for a full day tomorrow!

*Meals included: dinner
*Bring food or funds to purchase a meal on the drive

Day 2
The bulk of this day will be spent on several small hikes, or one long all-day hike. We’ll visit some epic vistas, secret beaches, tide pools, and/or rolling coastal hills while learning about natural history and outdoor recreation ethics. The exact hikes will be planned by the Guide Team and may differ from trip to trip, depending on group size, abilities, weather, and interests.

*Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks

Day 3
The bulk of this day will be spent on several small hikes, or one long all-day hike. We’ll visit some epic vistas, secret beaches, tide pools, and/or rolling coastal hills while learning about natural history and outdoor recreation ethics. The exact hikes will be planned by the Guide Team and may differ from trip to trip, depending on group size, abilities, weather, and interests.

*Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks

Day 4
In the morning we will make breakfast and pack up camp. Then we will visit a few sights and/or explore a short hike. We will hit the road and exit the coast around midday. Return time to UCLA will vary from 4:00pm to as late as 10:00pm (or even later), depending on traffic and other variables that may or may not be within our control. Make plans to be flexible in allowing for a potentially late return time.

*Meals included: breakfast, lunch, snacks
*Bring cash/card for dinner purchase on the drive

*This itinerary is approximate and subject to change. It is meant to provide a rough idea of what to expect or plan for, such as meals, activities, and departure/return times. Exact details are planned by the Guide Team in the weeks leading up to the trip and will be communicated at the Pre-Trip Meeting. Changes may be made to this itinerary at any time, as appropriate in adapting to weather conditions, goals, group abilities, traffic, and any other factors that may or may not be within our control. Guide Teams are prepared to make changes and decisions regarding the itinerary as needed. Flexibility and unpredictability are part of the adventure of outdoor trips!
Trip difficulty rating

**Moderate**
Participants should be accustomed to physical activity and should be able to hike several miles a day while carrying a small amount of weight in daypacks. We will take breaks, encourage each other, and look out for one another's needs. Like all OA trips, this is a shared group-adventure, so we will hike at a pace that everyone can enjoy.

Weather

The weather in Montaña de Oro State Park has the potential to be stormy, windy, hot, or cold. Prepare yourself for success by bringing enough warm layers, sun protection, and adequate footwear. When in doubt, pack more than you need; you are welcome to leave any layers or accessories in the van.

The OA way

Outdoor Adventures prioritizes safety and responsible stewardship of the environment and our natural resources. All UCLA OA trips are designed to be cooperative, educational, inclusive, and safely adventurous. Participants can look forward to learning about aspects of outdoor recreation, such as setting up tents, cooking meals, natural history, and wilderness ethics. Everyone will work together, learn together, and look out for each other’s needs throughout the trip. If you are looking for some outdoor-minded community and to learn valuable skills, then OA trips are for you!